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CLYTEMNESTRA

After the painting by the Hon. John Collier.

The central figure of the Agamemnon. Clytemnestra has often been compared to Lady Macbeth. She was the typical wife of the Greeks, who "browbeat truth before the judgment seat of gods and men."

GREAT STORIES
FROM
THE CLASSICS

Edited by
H. A. POLLOCK

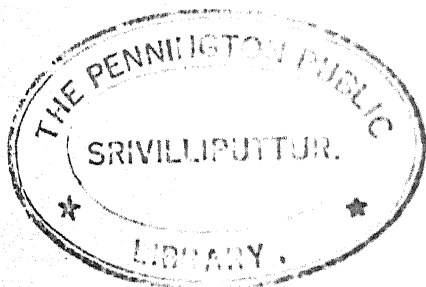


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Fleece are the first of the world's treasures. There are no better stories to be found in books ; no personages better worth knowing.

Mythology, as has been said, like a parent's blood has passed into all the veins of literature. All great literature is saturated with allusion to the classical myths and legends, and a knowledge of them is often needed if we would appreciate the best in our own literature.

The present volume summarises the main incidents and events and introduces the principal figures in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* and the *Aeneid*, with copious extracts from the best translations. If the book serves as an introduction to a wider reading it will have served a good purpose.

FOREWORD

THE romantic myths and legends of the ancients, largely concerned with the deeds of the gods, form the basis of literature. Our debt to Homer is incalculable ; both as poetry and as history the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* hold a place apart in world-literature. We can hardly realise what might have happened if they had not been preserved. Through all the Ages they have been quoted. People who have not read a single line of any translation of Homer, yet know something of the chief Homeric characters. They know what is meant by "Homeric grandeur" or "Homeric laughter" ; they have heard of Achilles and his valour ; of Hector and Ajax and Nestor ; of Paris, and the beautiful Helen of Troy ; of Ulysses and his wanderings ; of Penelope and Andromache and the rest of Homeric women. They have heard of the fearsome Polyphemus, of the enchantress Circe, of Scylla and Charybdis, and many another classic name. And the great love stories of Æneas and Dido ; the tragic affair of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra ; and the stories of the Golden